



Dwarf Sports Association UK

Adult Safeguarding Policy

2025

Foreword

The Dwarf Sports Association UK (DSAuk) is proud to create a safe, inclusive and positive environment for people with dwarfism and their families to take part in sport and physical activity. Safeguarding sits at the heart of everything we do.

We believe every adult has the right to enjoy sport free from abuse, harm or neglect. As a national disability sports organisation, DSAuk has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding are applied across all of our programmes, events and activities.

This Safeguarding Adults Policy reflects national legislation and best practice. It ensures that welfare, safety, inclusion and equality are central to our work — whether you are an athlete, volunteer, coach, official, family member or supporter.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Through this policy, we commit to empowering our community to recognise concerns, challenge poor practice, and take action to protect adults at risk. By embedding safeguarding into everything we do, DSAuk is helping to make sport safe, fair and fun for all.

Signed by Chair:

1. Introduction

The Dwarf Sports Association UK (DSAuk) is committed to ensuring that all adults who take part in our activities are safe, included, and protected from harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This policy sets out DSAuk's commitment to protecting adults at risk, the principles we follow, and the steps to take if a concern arises.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, trustees, coaches, members, and partners involved in DSAuk activities.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Protect adults at risk from abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Provide clear guidance on recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns.

- Ensure DSAuk activities are safe, inclusive and empowering.
 - Support staff and volunteers with training and resources.
 - Comply with the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005, and safeguarding best practice.
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3. Safeguarding Adults – Policy Statement

DSAuk believes that:

- Every adult has the right to participate in sport and physical activity in a safe and supportive environment.
 - The welfare of the adult at risk is paramount.
 - Safeguarding is the shared responsibility of everyone involved in DSAuk.
 - Adults should be supported to make their own decisions wherever possible.
 - Concerns will always be taken seriously, acted on promptly, and handled with sensitivity.
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4. Principles

This policy follows the **six safeguarding principles** from the Care Act 2014:

1. **Empowerment** – Supporting informed decision-making.
 2. **Prevention** – Acting early to stop harm before it happens.
 3. **Proportionality** – Responding appropriately to risk.
 4. **Protection** – Supporting those in greatest need.
 5. **Partnership** – Working with agencies and communities.
 6. **Accountability** – Being transparent and responsible.
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5. Definitions

- **Adult at risk:** Anyone aged 18+ who has care and support needs, and is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, and unable to protect themselves.
 - **Abuse** can include: physical, emotional/psychological, sexual, financial, neglect, discriminatory, organisational, domestic abuse, modern slavery, cyber bullying, mate crime, and radicalisation.
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6. Recognising Abuse – Signs and Indicators

- Unexplained injuries or frequent accidents
 - Changes in behaviour (withdrawn, anxious, fearful)
 - Financial difficulties or missing belongings
 - Neglect of personal care or hygiene
 - Bullying, controlling or intimidating behaviour
 - Disclosure from the adult or another person
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7. Roles and Responsibilities

DSAuk Board

- Holds overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- Ensures this policy is approved, implemented and reviewed.

Chief Executive

- Ensures policy compliance across DSAuk operations.
- Promotes a culture of safeguarding.

Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO)

- First point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Provides advice and support to staff and volunteers.
- Liaises with statutory agencies when needed.

Staff, Volunteers and Coaches

- Must complete safeguarding training.
 - Must report concerns promptly to the LSO.
 - Must follow this policy and DSAuk's Codes of Conduct.
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8. Responding to Concerns

If you are worried about an adult at risk:

1. Report it immediately to the Lead Safeguarding Officer (or Deputy).
2. If urgent and someone is in immediate danger, call the police (999).

3. Record what you saw/heard factually and share with the LSO.
 4. Do not promise confidentiality – explain you must share concerns to keep them safe.
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9. Good Practice Guidelines

- Treat all adults with dignity, respect and fairness.
 - Avoid being alone with an adult at risk whenever possible.
 - Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
 - Do not tolerate bullying, discrimination or poor practice.
 - Gain written consent for photography and video use.
 - Follow safer recruitment procedures, including DBS checks.
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10. Away Trips and Overnight Stays

- Risk assessments must be completed.
 - Staff must follow DSAuk's Codes of Conduct.
 - Same-gender staff should be available for single-gender groups.
 - Parents/carers must be fully informed of arrangements.
 - Alcohol and substance use are strictly prohibited.
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11. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.
 - Personal data will be stored securely in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.
 - Records of safeguarding concerns will be confidential and securely stored.
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12. Training and Monitoring

- All staff, trustees and relevant volunteers will complete safeguarding training.
 - DBS checks will be carried out where roles meet the regulated activity threshold.
 - This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if legislation changes.
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13. Key Contacts

Lead Safeguarding Officer (DSAuk):

Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSAuk):

Police (non-emergency): 101

Police (emergency): 999

Ann Craft Trust (Safeguarding Adults in Sport Unit): 0115 951 5400

14. Codes of Conduct

All DSAuk participants, staff, coaches, volunteers and carers must:

- Respect others and promote equality.
 - Prioritise welfare over winning.
 - Report any concerns immediately.
 - Uphold DSAuk's values of **safety, inclusion and community**.
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15. Policy Approval

This Safeguarding Adults Policy was approved by the **DSAuk Board** in September 2025 and will be reviewed in **September 2027**.